

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A material comprising groups containing sulfur and phosphorous bonded together by a hydrocarbon chain and bonded via phosphorous and oxygen atoms to a metal ~~mineral~~ oxide of one or more elements M, said materials comprising M-O-M' groups, M' representing an element of a mineral oxide identical to or different from M, the ratio of said element M to the phosphorous being about 0.5:1 to about 500:1, each phosphorous atom of the phosphorous-containing groups forming at least one P-O-M group and/or P-O-M' group, said material being prepared by gel formation.

2. (Original) Materials according to claim 1, in which M and M' represent the same element.

3. Canceled

4. Canceled

5. Canceled

6. Canceled

7. Canceled

8. Canceled

9. Canceled

10. Canceled

11. Canceled

12. (Currently Amended) Materials according to claim 1, in which M and M' represent an element from groups 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 1B, 2B, 3B, 4B, 5B, 6B, 7B, 8, 3A, 4A the lanthanides or the actinides of the periodic table.

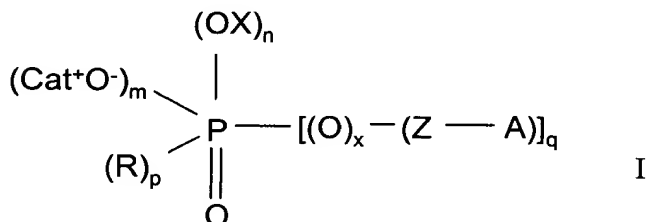
13. (Previously Presented) Materials according to claim 1, in which M and M' are titanium, zirconium, iron, aluminium, silicon or tin.

14. (Previously Presented) Materials according to claim 1, in which M and M' are titanium, zirconium, or aluminium.

15. (Previously Presented) Materials according to claim 1, in which the sulfur-containing groups are thiol groups, derivatives thereof, sulfonic acid groups or derivatives thereof.

16. (Previously Presented) Materials according to claim 14, in which the sulfur-containing groups are thiol groups, derivatives thereof, sulfonic acid groups or their derivatives thereof.

17. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a material according to claim 1, in which at least one halogenated compound of the formula  $M(\text{Hal})_z$  or at least one alkoxyated compound of the formula  $M(\text{OR}')_z$ , wherein z is equal to the valence of the element M, Hal is a halogen atom, R' is a hydrocarbon group, or at least one compound of element M which is a carboxylate, sulfate s, nitrate, hydroxide or oxychloride, is brought into contact with at least one solvent solution of at least one phosphorous-containing compound of formula I



18. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 17, in which an alkoxyated compound of the formula  $M(OR')_z$ , wherein  $R'$  is an alkyl group containing 1 to 12 carbon atoms, is brought into contact with a solution in a solvent of a phosphorous-containing compound of formula I wherein  $Cat^+$  is a proton  $H^+$ ,  $R$  is an alkyl group containing 1 to 18 carbon atoms or an aryl group containing 6 to 18 carbon atoms or an alkyl-aryl group containing 7 to 24 carbon atoms,  $X$  is a group of the formula  $SiR''_3$ ,  $Z$  is a saturated or unsaturated bivalent alkyl group containing 1 to 18 carbon atoms or a bivalent aryl group containing 6 to 18 carbon atoms or a bivalent alkyl-aryl or aryl-alkyl group containing 7 to 24 carbon atoms and  $A$  is a sulfur-containing group which is a thiol group, a derivative thereof, a sulfonic acid group or a derivative thereof.

19. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 17, in which the phosphorous-containing compound of formula I is a compound in which  $m=2$ ,  $q=1$  and  $n=p=\text{zero}$ .

20. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 17, in which the phosphorous-containing compound of formula I is a compound in which  $n=2$ ,  $q=1$  and  $m=p=\text{zero}$ .

21. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 17, in which the phosphorous-containing compound of formula I is a compound in which Z is a saturated bivalent alkylene alkyl compound containing 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

22. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 17, in which the solvent for the phosphorous-containing compound of formula I, is tetrahydrofuran, dimethylsulfoxide, dichloromethane or water.

23. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 18, wherein R' is an alkyl group containing 1-6 carbon atoms.

24. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 21, wherein Z is a polymethylene group.

25. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 18, in which the phosphorous-containing compound of formula I is a compound in which  $m=2$ ,  $q=1$  and  $n=p=\text{zero}$ .

26. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 18, in which the phosphorous-containing compound of formula I is a compound in which  $n=2$ ,  $q=1$  and  $m=p=\text{zero}$ .

27. (Previously Presented) Materials according to claim 2, wherein M and M' represent Ti.

17. 28. (Previously Presented) Materials produced according to the process of claim
18. 29. (Previously Presented) Materials produced according to the process of claim
19. 30. (Previously Presented) Materials produced according to the process of claim
20. 31. (Previously Presented) Materials produced according to the process of claim
21. 32. (Previously Presented) Materials produced according to the process of claim
22. 33. (Previously Presented) Materials produced according to the process of claim
34. (Previously Presented) Materials according to claim 28, wherein M and M' represent Ti.
35. (Currently Amended) Materials according to claim 1, wherein the ratio of element M to phosphorus is about 3.4:1 to 500:1 ~~5.00:1~~.

Please add the following new claim:

--36. (New) A material comprising groups containing sulfur and phosphorous bonded together by a hydrocarbon chain and bonded via phosphorous and oxygen atoms to a metal oxide of one or more elements M, said materials comprising M-O-M' groups, M'

representing an element of a mineral oxide identical to or different from M, the ratio of said element M to the phosphorous being about 0.5:1 to about 500:1, each phosphorous atom of the phosphorous-containing groups forming at least one P-O-M group and/or P-O-M' group, said material being prepared by gel formation in which at least one halogenated derivative with formula  $M(\text{Hal})_z$  or at least one alkoxylated derivative with formula  $M(\text{OR}')_z$ , where z is equal to the valence of the element M, Hal is a halogen atom, R' is a hydrocarbon group, or at least one compound of element M selected from the group formed by carboxylates, sulfates, nitrates, hydroxides and oxychlorides is brought into contact with at least one solution in a solvent of at least one phosphorous-containing compound with formula I where the sum  $m+n+p+q$  is equal to 3,  $m=0, 1$  or  $2$ ,  $q=0, 1$  or  $2$ ,  $x=0$  or  $1$ ,  $p=0, 1$  or  $2$ , R is a hydrocarbon group, X is a hydrocarbon group or a group with formula  $\text{SiR}''_3$  where R'' is a hydrocarbon group, Z is a hydrocarbon group optionally comprising heteroatoms,  $\text{Cat}^+$  is a monovalent cation and A is a sulfur-containing group or a reactive group that can be transformed into a sulfur-containing group.--